

Chrysanthemum plant named 'Kiko'

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

'Kiko' is a product of a breeding-program which had the objective of creating new chrysanthemum cultivars with a decorative type flower, a 8 week response and a medium plant height (1 m.). The new plant of the present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of Chrysanthemum plant. 'Kiko' is a seedling from a cross in a breeding program maintained under the control of inventor. The female parent is #98.0106-unpatented-, an unnamed seedling not available to inventor for description. The male parent is unknown, being a mixed population of a group of male parents. The new and distinct cultivar was discovered and selected as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross by Mark Roland Boeder in a controlled environment (greenhouse) in Rijnsenhout Holland in 2001. The first act of asexual reproduction of 'Kiko' was accomplished when vegetative cuttings were taken from the initial selection in 2001 in a controlled environment in Rijnsenhout Holland.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a new and distinct variety of chrysanthemum bearing spectacularly large blooms with elongated quilled pink ray-florets.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention of a new and distinct variety of chrysanthemum is shown in the accompanying drawings, the color being as nearly true as possible with color photographs of this type.

Fig. 1 shows a plant of the cultivar in full bloom.

Fig. 2 shows the various stages of bloom of the new cultivar.

Fig. 3 shows the foliage of the new cultivar.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

This new variety of chrysanthemum is of the botanical classification *Chrysanthemum morifolium*. The observations and measurements were gathered from plants grown in Rijnsenhout Holland in a photo-periodic controlled crop under conditions generally used in commercial practice. The greenhouse temperatures during this crop were at day-time between 18°C and 25°C and at night 20°C. After a long day period of 14 days the photo-periodic response time in this crop was 56 days. After the long day period to flowering growth retardants were applied 2 to 3 times in an average dose of 2.5 gram / liter water. The plants were observed (directly) during the flowering of this crop. When slightly damaged during harvest, the ray florets have proven to be sensitive to botrytis. No tests were done on disease or insect resistance or susceptibility. No tests were done on cold or drought tolerance. This new variety produces large sized inflorescences with elongated quilled pink ray-florets blooming on the plant for 5 weeks. This new variety of chrysanthemum has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics throughout successive propagations however the phenotype may vary significantly with variations in environment such as light intensity and temperature. To show the phenotype as described 'Kiko' can be planted without assimilation lightning (high pressure sodium lamps) between week 4 and week 32 under greenhouse conditions in Holland. With assimilation light (minimum level 2500 lux) it can be planted year round under greenhouse conditions in Holland.

From the cultivars known to inventor the most similar existing cultivar in comparison to 'Kiko' is 'Dance' (U.S. Plant

Patent 12,941). When 'Dance' and 'Kiko' are being compared the following differences and similarities are noticed. Both 'Dance' and 'Kiko' are typically grown as disbud varieties, producing large sized blooms with elongated quilled ray florets. The differences of 'Dance' and 'Kiko' are (1) Size inflorescence. The size of the bloom of 'Dance' is smaller than that of 'Kiko' (2) Length ray floret. The ray florets of 'Dance' are shorter in length than those of 'Kiko'. (3) Color ray florets. The ray florets of 'Dance' are purple colored, while those of 'Kiko' are pink.

The following is a description of the plant and characteristics that distinguish 'Kiko' as a new and distinct variety.

The color designations are taken from the plant itself. Accordingly, any discrepancies between the color designations and the colors depicted in the photographs are due to photographic tolerances. The color chart used in this description is: The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, edition 1995.

Table 1. Botanical Description of cultivar 'Kiko'

Bud

Size	Large, cross-section 1.5 cm height 1.5 cm
Outside color	Yellow-green 145A
Involucral bracts	3 rows, length 1 cm, width 1.5 cm
Involucral bracts among disc-florets	Not present
Involucral bracts color	Green 138B

Inflorescences

Type	Double
Height	5 cm
Size	Large
Fully expanded	19 cm
Number per stem	1 (typically grown as disbud)
Performance on the plant	3 weeks
Seeds	Seed production not observed
Fragrance	Typical chrysanthemum, slight
Peduncle length	3 cm
Peduncle color	Green 138C

Color

Center of the flower	Immature Yellow-green 150D
	Mature Yellow-green 144D
Color of the ray-florets	Upper surface Red-purple 65B
	Lower surface Red-purple 65B
Tonality from Distance	A disbudded mum with pink flowers and a cream disc

Color of the upper surface of the
ray-florets after aging of the plant

Red-purple 65B

Ray florets

Texture Upper and under side smooth

Number 200

Shape Elongated quilled

Longitudinal axis of majority Straight to incurving

Length of corolla tube 8 cm

Ray-floret margin Entire

Ray-floret length 9 cm

Ray-floret width 0.2 cm

Ratio length / width High

Shape of tip Incurved

Disc florets

Disc diameter 1cm

Distribution of disc florets Few, only visible at mature stages of
flowering.

Shape Tubular

Color Yellow-green 154D

Receptacle shape Domed raised

Reproductive Organs

Stamen Present in disc florets only

Stamen color Yellow-green 144 B

Pollen Produced in small quantities

Pollen color Yellow 7A

Styles Present in both ray and disc florets

Style color	Yellow 13A
Style Length	4 mm
Stigma color	Yellow-green 145 D
Stigma Width	1 mm
Ovaries	Enclosed in perianth

Plant

Form	A disbudded mum meant for erect culture
Growth habit	Upright
Growth rate	Medium vigor
Height	1 m
Width	30 cm
Internode length	2.5 – 3 cm
Spray formation	Not formed when grown as disbud
Stem Color	Yellow-green 148C
Stem Strength	Strong
Stem Brittleness	Not brittle
Stem Anthocyanin coloration	Absent
Flowering Response (photo-periodic controlled crop, not natural season)	56 days

Foliage

Color immature stage	Upper side Yellow-green 147B
	Under side Yellow-green 148C
Color mature stage	Upper side Yellow-green 147A
	Under side Yellow-green 148B
Color midvein mature leaf	Upper side Green 138C
	Under side Green 139C
Size	Large; length 15-17 cm, width 7-9 cm

Quantity (number per single stem)	30
Shape	Cordiform
Texture upper side	Fleshy and glabrous
Texture under side	Pubescent
Venation arrangement	Palmate
Shape of the margin	Dentate
Shape of Base of Sinus Between Lateral Lobes	Acute
Margin of Sinus Between Lateral Lobes	Converging
Shape of Base	Truncate
Apex	Mucronulate
Petiole Length	1.5 – 3 cm
Petiole Color	Green 138C

Table 2. Differences of 'Kiko' with comparison variety 'Dance'

	'Kiko'	'Dance'
Size inflorescence	19 cm	13.5 cm
Length ray florets	9 cm	7 cm
Color ray florets	Red-purple 65B	Purple 77B to 77C